Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00152 170726Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 PC-01 /076 W
----------170728Z 074185 /14
R 170700Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5958
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0152

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, BY
SUBJECT: BURUNDI-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND U.S. AID

1. AT MY REQUEST, I HAD OVER ONE HOUR FIRST OFFICIAL CONVER-
SATION FEB 16 WITH PRIMIN NZAMBIMANA. I WILL REPORT IN
GREATER DETAIL VIA MEMCON. HOWEVER, MAIN THRUST OF MY REMARKS
WAS THAT BURUNDI WAS FOREVER ASKING U.S. FOR BILATERLAL AID,
BUT THAT WHEN WE OFFERED IT, WE WERE GREETED WITH SILENCE. I
MENTIONED REJECTION OF PEACE CORPS OFFER IN 1975, LACK OF
RESPONSE TO OFFER TO SET UP ENGLISH CLASSES IN MINISTRIES,
CURRENT STALL ON FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS, NON-REPLY TO PRESENT
OFFER OF POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, HAPHAZARD ACCEPTANCE OF
FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS, AND FINALLY, INACTION ON OUR PROPOSED
INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MUYINGA PROVINCE.
I WONDERED WHETHER OLD SUSPICIONS ABOUT USG MOTIVES AND
INTENTIONS IN BURUNDI WERE REAPPEARING. I ASKED PRIMIN
WHETHER HE THOUGHT U.S. HAD ANY INTEREST IN MIXING INTO
BURUNDI'S POLITICS, BECAUSE I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT WITH OUR
NEGLIGIBLE INTERESTS HERE, ANY BURUNDIAN WHO CONJURED UP
VISIONS OF U.S. PLOTS WAS ONLY DELUDING HIMSELF ABOUT LEVEL
OF AMERICAN ATTENTION TO BURUNDI. WHEN WE PROPOSED AID,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00152 170726Z

IT WAS SOLELY OUT OF CONCERN FOR ONE OF WORLD'S POOREST
COUNTRIES, AND BURUNDI WOULD ONLY BE HURTING ITSELF IT IF
STOOD ALOOF, ESPECIALLY NOW WHEN NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION
WAS INCLINED TO INCREASE ITS HELP FOR SMALL AFRICAN NATIONS.

2. NZAMBIMANA REPLIED THAT FOR LONG PERIODS, RELATIONS
BETWEEN BURUNDI AND U.S. HAD BEEN BAD, BUT HE THOUGHT THEY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

WERE CURRENTLY ON THE UPSWING. HE ATTRIBUTED NON-REPLY ON MUYINGA PROJECT TO GROWING PAINS OF NEW TEAM OF MINISTERS AND TOP OFFICIALS, WHO WERE A BIT SLOW IN GETTING THEMSELVES ORGANIZED AND WHO HAD A MOUNTAIN OF PAPER FROM OLD REGIME TO REVIEW. HE SAID THAT MUYINGA PROJECT SEEMED TO FALL SQUARELY WITHIN NEW REGIME'S PRIORITIES, AND HE WAS SURE THAT AA FEW AID PERSONNEL IN MUYINGA WOULD HARDLY POSE ANY THREAT TO BURUNDI'S SECURITY. HE ALSO ASKED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES AND SAID HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A FUTURE ROLE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN BURUNDI ONCE BILATERAL AID GOT GOING.

3. ALTHOUGH PRIMIN MADE NO COMMITMENT ON MUYINGA, HIS COMMENTS WERE ALL RELATIVELY POSITIVE. FROM WHAT OTHER EMBASSIES TELL ME, IT IS TRUE THAT "NEW TEAM" IS PROVING INORDINATELY SLOW IN REACHING MANY DECISIONS INVOLVING BOTH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND DEALINGS WITH AID DONORS. A BIT MORE PATIENCE IS NEEDED.
MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUJUMB00152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770056-0713
Format: TEL
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770233/aaaabdbu.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2cd1a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3300117
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURUNDI-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND U.S. AID
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, BY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2cd1a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009